

**Remarks/Arguments:**

The drawings have been objected to. In response, the Specification has been amended. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP4-363,167. In addition, claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ulcej (U.S. Patent 6,206,680). It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

The language of claim 3 has been clarified and has been included in claims 1 and 10. Claim 1 now recites the feature of:

... a length of said first forming member varies along a width of said first forming member, said length in a direction of discharging said liquids.

This is shown in Applicant's Fig. 2. As shown in Fig. 2, length L1 varies along with C.

As set forth in Applicant's originally filed Application at page 13, table 1, Applicant obtains a variation of thickness of coating which is much smaller than that obtained by the comparative example (i.e. without variations of length of the forming member). As Applicant's above feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

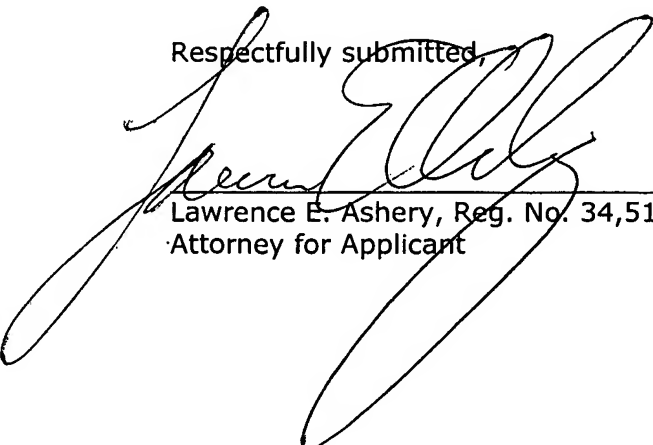
Claim 10, while not identical to claim 1, is also patentable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1.

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In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

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